AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Entered as second-class matter September 26, 1912, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 11, 1918.

WHOLE NO. 1610 — WILLIAM GREEN, President — WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1942 — GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer — VOL. 32, NO. 7.

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accurately and editorially interpretations of matters affecting labor concerning in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

FACING *the* FACTS

With PHILIP PEARL

We know the way to win the war. It is no military secret. We are not giving any aid or comfort to the enemy by divulging it. In fact, once the American people clearly realize how to win the war and set about doing it in good earnest, it will be just too bad for the enemies of America.

The way to win the war is just this—for every one of us to do his full part. That doesn't mean that it means anything to him. It doesn't mean waiting for the other fellow to act first. It means for each one of us to act now.

What can we do?

The answer is to do our job and do a real job of it.

That, of course, is a generality. Let's get specific and talk turkey.

Our armed forces alone, and those of our allies, can't win the war by themselves. They need help behind the lines. That help must be supplied by labor. It must be supplied in full measure. There must be no shirking on the industrial front. There must be no strikes. As the war situation stands today, running away from the job is equivalent to running away from the enemy.

We are proud to be able to say that labor is not running away from the enemy. That it is sticking to the job and that it is giving America a full measure of patriotic service.

Mental Fifth-Columnists

There is a way to lose the war which we'd like to talk about—and warn against. We see it spreading every day, especially on those days when bad news comes from the battle fronts.

That dangerous way of losing the war is to lose confidence and to undermine the confidence of others.

That way is to criticize without knowledge, to condemn without knowing the facts, to let our disappointments run away with us.

That way is to become so embittered that we must find a goat and jump all over it to take out our wrath against the enemy.

That way lies frustration and defeat.

We cannot afford to let this happen in America. We can't allow the mental fifth columnists to enter our consciousness. We can't permit them to shake our faith in our leaders just because of a few preliminary setbacks or because of evidence of inefficiency or boon-doggling on the home front.

We must remember that many well-meaning critics who now warn against complacency would be the first to howl should American confidence in victory waver. They would be the first to demand action to bolster morale. Yet they are now doing their utmost—unintentionally, of course—to destroy morale.

Let's be frank about it. The American people don't believe we can lose this war. We think that's wonderful. We don't think they should be taught to believe we can lose the war. We are convinced that confident strength is more mighty and more effective than despair.

Self-Censorship Needed

So we have figured out a new way of winning the war. It involves censorship. Not the censorship of others, we hasten to add, but of ourselves.

Let each one of us set up a little office of self-censorship in our minds. Let us not criticize or condemn unless we're dead certain of what we're talking about and, then, let our criticism be constructive.

Let us try to do all we can ourselves before finding fault with others.

Let us make sure we are doing our own jobs to the best of our ability before we blame others for not doing their jobs right.

Let us always remember that the leaders of our Government and of our armed forces know all about a lot of things we can only guess blindly at and that they are proceeding according to plans which we know nothing about and which may prove an unpleasant surprise to our enemies.

Naturally, they can't talk about war plans in advance. That would give the enemy a chance to prepare against them. We must not think that just because the United Nations are losing a few battles, we are going to lose the war. We must not think that just because we don't know what our Army and Navy are doing, they are doing nothing.

Of course, it's Hell to see our enemies win glittering victories. It's Hell to feel that we can't do anything immediately to help Bataan and Gardiner and his gallant men.

But if we are going to win the war we've got to learn how to take it, even though we don't like it. When we get ready to give it, we are certain our enemies won't like it either.

Army Doing Fine Job of Training Flying Cadets, Labor Leaders Report

By FRANK P. FENTON, Director of International Representation, and ROBERT J. WATT, International Representative, American Federation of Labor

Maxwell Field, Ala.—The United States Army is doing a swell job of training thousands of picked Americans to be pilots of the fighting war planes.

We have seen how it is done. We were invited here as guests of Undersecretary of War Robert P. Patterson, along with other labor officials, to watch the Army training program in action.

What we saw impressed us so deeply that we felt every working man and woman in America ought to know about it.

We arrived here in Secretary Patterson's plane from Washington in time to see the flying cadets on parade. They were a fine looking lot of young men, all between the ages of 20 and 26. The cadets in this group had been under training for less than two weeks, but already they were looking like veteran soldiers.

We made a general tour of this huge airbase, through the cadets' living quarters, the mess rooms, reading rooms, infirmary and the quartermaster. We visited the great hangars where the planes are kept; the classrooms where technical instruction is given, the recreation grounds where the boys play football, basket ball, tennis, golf or baseball. It is a complete community, with every mind concentrated on one objective—turning out the finest pilots for our Army. From what we saw at Maxwell Field, we have no doubt that these pilots will be second to none.

One of the things that impressed us most was the attitude of the cadets. Some of the planes that had come into the sheds were stored there because the ships needed get parts. This is true of other Army equipment, guns and tanks. The cadets are fully aware of these handicaps and realize how much labor can help the war effort. It's up to us to get these parts finished so that training can go "full speed ahead" in the Army. One small engine part may mean the difference between a plane in the shop and a plane in the air.

This doesn't mean, however, that training isn't going ahead—it is. And we are convinced, as we said at the beginning, that the Army's doing a splendid job of training.

Our trip was arranged by the Labor Information Section of the War Department with the cooperation of the Labor Division of the War Production Board.

We were accompanied by William H. Harrison, chairman of the War Labor Board, Eric Peterson, vice president of the International Association of Machinists and several CIO representatives. Also on the trip were Lieut. Col. A. Robert Gumbinner, Lieut. Donald B. Robinson of the Labor Information Section and Andrew J. Biemiller, Chief of the Labor Production Section, Labor Division of the War Production Board.

Luxembourg, Under Nazi Heel, Balks At Assimilation By Cruel Invaders

New York City—Nazi methods in dealing with a country which it proposes to assimilate rather than to despoil are revealed in two secret reports to the Luxembourg authorities in London recently transmitted here.

All the country's institutions have been taken over by those of the Reich.

Local authorities have been replaced by Nazi councils, and the staff of the central administration has been augmented by the importation of Nazi officials, accompanied by their families.

Recently Gauleiter Simon, appointed by Hitler, ordered a census. In spite of the warning that it would be forbidden even to mention Luxembourg as a nationality or Luxembourg idiom as language, 99 per cent of the oppressed population registered as "Luxemburgers" and declared that their language was Luxemburgish.

The Gauleiter immediately cancelled the census and in retaliation ordered the arrest of 1600 Luxembourgers, belonging to all classes of the population.

The Gestapo took them to concentration camps in Germany. The day after the census the Gauleiter issued a decree according to which a Luxembourger leaving his country without official permission is to be arrested by the Gestapo, is to be sentenced to death. Two young men, who since have been arrested by the Gestapo in occupied France, died before a firing squad.

Save for a handful of political turncoats, the people have adopted the attitude of passive resistance, biding their time and only occasionally indulging in popular demonstrations, as when Gauleiter Simon ordered the Luxembourg flag removed from those who fell in the last war.

Tradesmen meet periodically to record anti-patriotic actions and the names of traitors.

Railway and power supply breakdowns are frequent and may be due to sabotage.

Information has been brought under Nazi direction, with German teachers and professors in key posts at schools and colleges.

Millions To Hear Defense Bond Broadcast By Green, Morgenthau

Washington, D. C.—The American Federation of Labor will launch its billion-dollar defense bond purchasing campaign on Washington's Birthday, Sunday, Feb. 22.

On that evening, from 8 to 8:30 p. m., Eastern Time, President William Green and Secretary of the Treasury Henry Morgenthau, Jr., will participate in a joint coast-to-coast broadcast over the Blue Network to tell the five million members of the American Federation of Labor all about the drive and to enlist their support.

All AFL members are urged to listen to this momentous broadcast. In many cities, Central Labor unions and local unions have arranged mass meetings to hear the broadcast from President Green and Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau. Millions of others will tune in on their home radios. Don't miss it!

Unions "Jump Gun" In Bond Drive; Large Part of AFL Quota Filled

Washington, D. C.—Hundreds of AFL unions and millions of their members are "jumping the gun" on the official launching of the American Federation of Labor's billion-dollar defense bond purchasing drive. They are not waiting for any given signal but are buying bonds to the limit of their capacities, which, week-end, according to reports flooding AFL headquarters here.

President William Green expressed gratification over the enthusiastic response from every section of the country to the announcement of the drive which will officially get under way on Washington's Birthday, Feb. 22.

He declared that hundreds of messages from AFL unions sent to him indicate clearly that a substantial portion of the billion-dollar quota already has been subscribed for or pledged by AFL members and their unions.

Among the reports received here on AFL local purchases and activities are the following:

Allied Printing Trades

The Allied Printing Trades Council of New York City and the Employing Printers Association of New York have agreed on a plan whereby the 40,000 employees of the printing industry in the city will purchase $5,000,000 of defense bonds from their earnings.

No uniform wage deduction has been authorized but each establishment will meet with its employe representatives to work out individual shop plans. Vincent J. Ferris, secretary of the council, said that since all men are not employed full time it would be unfair to have a standard rate of deduction. He said that in some shops pay-roll allotment plans already are in effect. There is no question that the printing trades employes will fulfil their quota, he emphasized.

Lithographers

Hugh M. Bield, president of the Amalgamated Lithographers of America, reported that the international union has subscribed to the defense bonds as has Local No. 1, in New York City. Total local union investments in the U. S. government and Canadian victory loans now aggregate $1,000,000 he said.

Members of this union are purchasing bonds each week, either directly through their local unions or under payroll allotment agreements with their employers. He expressed confidence that the union "will make a splendid showing in this, Labor's attempt, to finance the war."

Railway Clerks

President George M. Harrison, of the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks, reported that this union has purchased $50,000 in defense bonds and will purchase $100,000 more this year. The union has invested $1,025,890 in other Government bonds and has subscribed for $50,000 more.

Mr. Harrison, an AFL Vice President, pledged that the billion-dollar drive "will have the enthusiastic and substantial support of this organization." Each local lodge has been asked to form a committee to canvass all members to promote the purchase of bonds through payroll allotment plans or directly.

Cement Workers

The monthly magazine of the Cement, Lime, Gypsum and Allied Workers Union lists purchases by the international union and by its local of $71,000 in defense bonds.

Eight local unions have arranged payroll allotment plans with employers so that members of the unions can put aside specified amounts from their weekly pay envelopes for the purchase of bonds.

Central Labor Unions

Added to the list of Central Labor Unions which are arranging mass meetings for Feb. 22 to start the defense bond campaign with a bang are those in Somerville and Cambridge, Mass., Southwestern Oregon, Bestrice, Neb., Charlotte, N. C., Muskogee, Okla., Savannah, Ga., Allentown, Pa., and Lancaster, O.

B. W. Holbrook, executive secretary of the Bremerton, Wash., Central Labor Union, explained that the authorities there have banned all mass meetings on account of the war but he reported that 17,000 Navy Yard workers in Bremerton are setting aside part of their wages each week for bond purchases. In addition local unions are conducting bond purchasing drives. The laborers' union has bought $20,000 worth for its own treasury and the teamsters are running a close second.

Local Unions

Paper Box Workers Union, No. 20358, will hold a mass meeting Feb. 22 at Seattle, Wash., Red Sugar Refinery Employes Union, No. 21228, of Swink, Colo., has purchased $700 worth of bonds and all its members are buying bonds on their own account. Citrus Workers Union, No. 22576, of Ft. Pierce, Fla., reported it has purchased $500 in defense bonds and nearly all members have subscribed to payroll allotment plans. Match Workers Union, No. 18374, at Jacksonville, Fla., has bought $500 in defense bonds and will get "much more" during the year. Fabricated Metal Workers Union No. 22383 will hold a special defense bond meeting on Washington's Birthday. Federal Labor Union, No. 20878, Clinton, Iowa, has purchased a $1,000 bond and reported that employes of the Clinton Corn Syrup Refining Co. have installed allotment plan. Nesco Fabricated Metal Workers Union, No. 20815, Baltimore, Md., reported that the membership voted to buy defense stamps and bonds to the limit of their ability through the union.

AFL Fishermen Win Full Victory In War Labor Board's Decision

Washington, D. C.—In its first decision, the War Labor Board succeeded in breaking the "solid front and adamant" employers of 800 AFL New England fishermen and forcing the employers to accept arbitration of the dispute.

In its ruling the War Labor Board castigated the Federated Fishing Boats of New England and New York, Inc., for refusing to submit to arbitration the question of whether the company should provide $5,000 worth of war risk disability and death insurance for each of the employes engaged in the hazardous job of fishing in submarine infested waters.

The Board threatened the company with summary action by the Government if it did not adopt a different course. It was broadly hinted that the Government might take over the industry.

Within a few days the company was forced to meet the demands and has agreed to arbitrate the issue and to provide the necessary insurance for a three-month period while the arbitration proceedings are pending.

In its 12-page official decision, written by Wayne L. Morse, the following statement was considered most significant:

"This country is at war. The events in that war to date make clear that we cannot condone the conduct of any employer or labor group in America that places its selfish welfare above the interest of the country.

"The position of the company leaves the National War Labor Board with no other alternative but to rule that unless the employers involved comply immediately with the decision, their defiance of said board must be repudiated by patriotic Americans and challenged by whatever forces of government may be necessary to obtain compliance."

40-CENT MINIMUM WAGE SET FOR TRUCK LINES

Washington, D. C.—The Administrator of Wage and Hour Division of the Department of Labor has signed an order, effective March 16, requiring payment of at least 40 cents an hour in the property motor carrier industry. The minimum was recommended by a committee composed of equal representatives of the public, employers, and employes.

It was estimated the application of the minimum wage to the industry will increase the hourly rates of approximately 70,000 out of 600,000 workers employed by about 40,000 truck operators. It was also estimated that those affected by the 40 cent rate are terminal employes, loaders and clerical workers, chiefly located in the South.

News Briefs

AUTO DISTRIBUTION UNIT INCLUDES AFL OFFICIAL

Washington, D. C.—The Committees of the District of Columbia appointed John J. Leonard, president of the Central Labor Union, to the special three-man committee, operating under the District Rationing Board, to administer the distribution of new automobiles. The other members are Arthur F. Bye, local attorney, and H. Lawrence Choate, insurance agent.

Rationing of new autos which were purchased but undelivered prior to January 1 is already in operation. General rationing of new cars will start February 26.

AFL ORGANIZER NAMED LABOR ADVISER TO OCD

Washington, D. C.—Patrick J. McCartney, former American Federation of Labor organizer, is now serving as labor relations adviser to the Office of Civilian Defense.

Members of A. F. of L. unions, editors of labor publications and other persons in the labor movement who seek information pertaining to the various phases of civilian defense will have their requests filled promptly if they communicate with Mr. McCartney at Room 906, Office of Civilian Defense, Washington, D. C.

MRS. ROOSEVELT AIDS UNEMPLOYED PAINTERS

New York City.—Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt's intercession with the War Production Board in behalf of 16,000 unemployed New York City painters brought quick results.

Michael Di Silvestro, secretary-treasurer of the New York District Council of the Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers of America, who appealed for Mrs. Roosevelt's assistance on Jan. 21, reported that government officials had set in motion machinery to get the painters temporary relief, relief free retraining in needed war production skills, and a considerable number of war jobs.

UNION LABOR BUILDS NEW CHICAGO SUBWAY

Chicago, Ill.—Members of organized labor have done all the work on Chicago's new subway, which has been under construction for several years and is now nearing completion. At present about 1,000 men are employed putting on the finishing touches to the stations which will be in operation when the subway is opened for the use of the public. At the peak of construction 5,000 men were working in the tubes.

While the tunnel was built for transportation purposes, it is reported that it would be used as a shelter in the event that Chicago is ever bombed by air raiders.

DRAFT BOARDS INSTRUCTED TO DEFER ESSENTIAL LABOR

Washington, D. C.—Local selective service draft boards were again reminded that workers just as essential to the winning of the war as front-line troops.

Selective Service Director Lewis B. Hershey told the boards to give "every consideration" to workers in classifying men for military service, authorities who have served a year or more in trades essential to war production should be deferred wherever possible, Hershey said.

DETROIT NEGROES REGAIN FEDERAL HOUSING PROJECT

Washington, D. C.—Defense Housing Coordinator Charles F. Palmer and Acting Federal Works Administrator Baird Snyder announced that the Sojourner Truth housing project in Detroit, Mich., had been restored to Detroit Negroes, following interchange in favor of the Detroit and Wayne Detroit groups backed by the Detroit Federation of Labor, AFL affiliate.

The project was originally built for Negro occupancy, but was turned over to white tenants after the House Public Buildings and Grounds Committee insisted on it as a condition for additional funds for defense housing.

The decision to make the Detroit project available for Negro workers, as signed, Palmer and Snyder said, "came in response to representations by Detroit city officials, housing authorities and civilian groups who expressed firm belief that the best interest of the defense program and the war effort would be served by permitting Negro families to occupy the new units."

JEWISH PAPER ADDS $5,000 TO AID-BRITISH-LABOR FUND

New York, N. Y.—Five thousand dollars was presented to the American Labor Committee to Aid British Labor by the Jewish Daily Forward at a special luncheon of prominent New York Labor leaders and representatives of the British War Relief Society. Alexander Kahn, general manager of the Forward, said that this sum represents the proceeds of a special British Commonwealth Edition published by the Forward."

AFL Asks Congress To Adopt Bill For $24 a Week To War Jobless

Green Urges All Union Members To Wire Senators and Representatives To Support Plan

Washington, D. C.—The American Federation of Labor called upon Congress to enact without delay the Government-sponsored bill to increase unemployment compensation for millions temporarily thrown out of work by priority orders and conversion of industry to war production.

President William Green urged all affiliated unions and the five million AFL members to wire their Senators and Congressmen to support this vitally necessary relief measure.

Mr. Green challenged statements by opponents of the measure that it is "unsound" or intended to bring about federalization of the social security system.

"We are facing a grim emergency," Mr. Green declared. "It is estimated that from two to four million American workers will lose their jobs in the next few months because of conditions forced by the war. These men and women are badly needed by America. We cannot afford to let them sit around idle and starving while industry belatedly gets ready for war production.

"It is a cruel paradox that while we know we are going to have to find a new labor supply of some eight million workers before war production can hit full stride, our immediate problem is to combat wholesale, if temporary, unemployment resulting from industrial change-overs.

"Under such circumstances, it appears obvious that the wise thing to do is to conserve American manpower and to train it for future needs instead of letting it go to waste and ruin.

"Such conservation is what this bill is intended to accomplish. It provides temporary relief for those unavoidably unemployed by supplementing existing unemployment compensation payments with Federal grants. We ask that maximum benefits be lifted to $24 a week for a limit of twenty-six weeks.

"I wish to emphasize that this setup is temporary. The bill provides it will last only during 1942. By next year we hope and expect that the present industrial upheaval will be straightened out and that production will be running smoothly in high gear.

"I further wish to emphasize that there is nothing in this proposal which is aimed at destroying the present Federal-State system of unemployment compensation. It contains no hidden move to wipe out the security establishments of various states.

"Finally, I wish to submit to the American people and to Congress these common-sense questions:

"Is it sound to starve four million American workers whose efforts will be needed for victory in the war, or is it sound to keep them and their families together in health?

"Is it sound to let these workers lie around idle, or is it sound to offer them opportunities for training in war work, as this bill provides?

"Is it sound to have these workers leave their home communities in search of jobs in crowded war production centers where there are no facilities even to house them, or should we try to keep them where they are and where they will be urgently needed as soon as the factories which used to employ them are ready to take them on again?

"I am confident that the answer of the American people and Congress to these questions will be prompt enactment of this essential measure."

Frank P. Fenton, National Director of Organization for the AFL, testified in support of the bill before the House Ways and Means Committee after Federal Security Administrator Paul McNutt and War Labor Director Sidney Hillman had earnestly indorsed the measure.

Mr. Fenton emphasized that the proposal is not the brain-child of any individual but the joint recommendation of representatives of employers and labor organizations serving on the National Labor Supply Policy Committee.

AFL Hits War Production Delays; Urges All Plant Capacity Be Used

Washington, D. C.—America can brook no delay in expanding war production because when the Axis powers open their drives in the Spring the United Nations will need equipment desperately on all fronts, the American Federation of Labor's Monthly Survey declared.

"Every day by which we can beat the production schedule means many lives saved, Axis advances stopped, and the end of victory nearer," the Survey emphasized.

It charged that the War Production Board's "attempt to cut down cost seems to be the chief cause of delays in getting war orders placed."

"Among specific instances mentioned were failure of employers to sub-contract war work. Another evil bitterly criticized in the Survey was competitive bidding on war contracts. Thousands of plants, it was charged, are frantically bidding for the same contract and have to close shop if they don't get it.

"The only answer," the Survey pointed out, "is negotiated contracts, based on a satisfactory cost analysis."

Labor calls upon the War Production Board to move quickly to this end, the Survey said.

"Hitler cannot be stopped by dilatory tactics. Labor calls upon the Government to correct these abuses at once and put all available plant capacity to war work."

Local unions, the Survey continued, should be sure to have "representatives on local war boards, such as fair rent committees, rationing, selective service boards, committees under the Office of Civilian Defense," and union members should learn to their union "for help in adjusting wages, training for new jobs, and all other problems. Where wage changes are necessary in shifting from civilian to war work in the same plant, all such changes should be negotiated by collective bargaining. We have been assured that this is the policy of the United States Government. Wage reductions on changing to war work are a vicious practice which can only undermine morale and delay the war effort."

"Union standards and union protection will be essential for women war workers," the Survey said. "The rate of pay for the job should be maintained, whether held by a man or a woman. This will prevent women holding the job and the man who wants to return to it after the war. Unions must see that they can provide for women war workers, to assure fairness and adequate protection, and to prevent undermining established labor standards."

The Survey emphasized the menace of the rising cost of living to real wages—wages expressed in purchasing power. On this basis although wages have increased considerably the purchasing power of the workers' pay envelope has not scarcely held its own. The best provision we have inserted in agreements for adjusting wages to the cost of living," the Survey said, "is as follows: Every worker's wage shall increase automatically with every rise in the cost of living. The wage increases automatically, without requiring negotiations; the increase becomes part of the regular wage, it is not given as a bonus: the wage increases immediately when living cost figures are issued each month; the worker does not have to wait until cost of living has increased two per cent or five per cent, thus his living standard does not fall behind."

"Proof of such a long urged by labor, is now in effect," the Survey said. "Beside having power to fix prices, Leon Henderson, Price Administrator, can also ration goods bought by consumers."

With regard to wages in war time the Survey pointed out that "productivity is increasing rapidly in many industries," in some instances trebling while employment increased only 70 per cent. "Productivity makes wage increases possible, but unions will need proof of their employer's wage-paying ability when negotiating," the Survey said.

Greatest Building Boom Predicted For This Year By Labor Department

Washington, D. C.—The Department of Labor predicted that new building construction expenditures in the United States in 1942 would exceed $10,750,000,000 and would constitute the largest dollar volume of construction in any year since 1926.

The 1941 total was about $10,500,000,000.

Private construction and nondefense public work would decrease sharply this year, the department predicted, adding that increased war construction would offset this. War work, $6,000,000,000, or 50 per cent, of the 1942 construction total would be Federally financed work under the expanded war program, the department said.

"Private construction operations will be curtailed in 1942, because of shortages of materials, particularly metals, required in war production," the statement said. "It is estimated construction activity in private dwellings in 1942 will decline by one-third from the 1941 level of 5.4 billion dollars.

"Most of this decrease will occur in nonfarm residential and non-residential building. Expenditures for new private residential construction, excluding both residential construction and farm work and all public residential work, are estimated at 1.7 billion dollars, a decline of almost 1 billion dollars from the 1941 total."